

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 AGR-20 L-03 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01

/188 W

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R 131400 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7200

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, US

SUBJ: TRADE REFORM ACT AND LONG- TERM TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 066161

1. SUMMARY: SENIOR FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS IN FONMIN
HAVE REACTED FAVORABLY TO THE PRESIDENT' S PROPOSED NEW TRADE
LEGISLATION. THYSBAERT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER' S CABINET HAS
EXPLAINED TO US, HOWEVER, SOME DIFIICULTIES FOR THE COMMUNITY
IN WORKING OUT ITS NEGOTIATING MANDATE, SINCE THE COUNCIL WILL
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PROBABLY NOT ACCORD THE COMMISSION THE BROAD POWERS IT WILL REQUEST. WE REITERATED THE DESIRABILITY OF AN EC MANDATE WHICH DOES NOT GET INTO THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF NEGOTIATION, SINCE HITS COULD WELL COMPLICATE THE U. S. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS ON THE NEW LAW. END SUMMARY.

2. ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR PERSONALLY LEFT COPIES OF MATERIAL ON PRESIDENT' S TRADE BILL MESSAGE WITH DE DOBBELEER, FONMIN DIRGEN FOR FOREIGN TRADE, AND WITH THYSBAERT, COUNSELOR IN THE CABINET OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER. BOTH DE DOBBELEER AND THYSBAERT ASSURED US THAT -- BASED ON PAST BRIEFINGS -- BELGIAN FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS WERE PERSUADED THAT THE PROPOSED U. S. TRADE LEGISLATION WAS NOT RESTRICTIVE OR PROTECTIONIST. THEY BOTH REMARKED THAT THE EC COMMISSION WAS ALSO AWARE THAT SUCH WAS NOT THE CASE.

3. THYSBAERT TOOK THE OCCASION, HOWEVER, TO ENGAGE IN A LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORTHCOMING MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. HE SEEMED DISAPPOINTED THAT OUR LEGISLATION MIGHT NOT BE FINALLY ENACTED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. HE REITERATED FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS THAT IS WAS DIFFICULT IN THE LIGHT OF PAST EXPERIENCE WITH ASP, FOR THE COMMUNITY TO NEGOTIATE BEFORE THE U. S. LEGISLATION WAS READY. WE NATURALLY STRESSED TO HIM THAT WE COULD NEGOTIATE EVEN THOUGH THE LEGISLATION WAS NOT FINALLY ENACTED.

4. THYSBAERT EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD BE UNWILLING TO GIVE THE COMMISSION AS WIDE OPEN A MANDATE AS WAS LIKELY TO BE REQUESTED. HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF U. S. PROBLEMS, BUT THAT WE SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE OF EUROPEAN PROBLEMS. IN THE CASE OF THE TRADE LEGISLATION, CONGRESS WOULD BE CONVEYING TO THE PRESIDENT CERTAIN POWERS WHICH HE COULD EXERCISE AT THIS DISCRETION; IN THE CASE OF THE COUNCIL, IT DID NOT CONVEY POWERS TO THE COMMISSION BUT ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS.

5. SINCE IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GIVE THE COMMISSION BROAD DISCRETIONARY POWERS, THYSBAERT THOUGH IT EQUALLY DIFFICULT TO GIVE THE COMMISSION AT THIS POINT A DETAILED NEGOTIATING MANDATE. IN THE U. S. THIS WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A " TAKE- IT- OR- LEAVE- IT" POSITION, WHICH WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. WE POINTED OUT TO THYSBAERT THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCH A DETAILED MANDATE DURING THE COURSE OF CONSIDERATION

OF OUR TRADE BILL COULD INDEED EASILY CAUSE PROBLEMS IN OUR OWN LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, ACCORDING TO THYSBAERT, WOULD BE FOR THE COUNCIL TO ISSUE A MORE GENERAL MANDATE IN JULY ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE COMMISSION CAN MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AT A LATER DATE WHEN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WAS FURTHER ALONG. AS A FINAL POSSIBILITY, THYSBAERT SUGGESTED THE FEASIBILITY OF A PARTIAL MANDATE, I. E., WITH FULL NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS IN SOME AREAS AND MORE GENERAL ONES IN OTHERS.

6. THYSBAERT SAID THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT SOAMES BE ABLE TO EXERT EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE ON THE COUNCIL. DAHRENDORF HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO SO, WHILE DENIAU WAS MORE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS RESPECT. HE EXPECTED THAT SOAMES WOULD EVENTUALLY SUCCEED IN MAKING HIS INFLUENCE FELT, BUT UP TO NOW HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO SO. DE DOBBELEER HAD INCIDENTALLY EARLIER EXPRESSED TO US RESERVATIONS AS TO WHETHER SOAMES YET HAD A FULL GRASP OF THE TOPICS WITH WHICH HE WAS DEALING IN THE COMMISSION.
STRAUSZ- HUPE

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